Academic Success Programme

Frequently asked questions

**What is the Academic Success Programme?**
The Academic Success Programme consists of workshops and online support in academic English. It is designed to support students and staff of the University of Manchester, whether or not English is their first language. It was known as the In-sessional programme until 2019.

**Should I attend the Academic Success Programme workshops?**
No-one is born speaking academic English – native and non-native speakers have to learn it. We would encourage you to try a class and find out for yourself what you think. In welcome week we run a series of taster classes to give you a flavour – see our website www.manchester.ac.uk/academicsuccessprogramme for details. We no longer require students to take any kind of test before attending our workshops.

**Will registering for the Academic Success Programme workshops help me with my academic application?**
Although we are happy to provide whatever information we can on the University Language Centre’s Academic Success Programme, we are unable to advise or assist prospective students with their academic application. Prospective students should contact admissions staff in their destination School for guidance at the application stage.

**What is the difference between pre-sessional courses and the Academic Success Programme?**
Pre-sessional courses (in academic English) are designed for international students hoping to progress onto a university programme. Successful completion of a Pre-sessional course usually indicates that the student’s English language level has been raised to that required by their School. Pre-sessional courses are open to the public, are full-time and attract a weekly tuition fee (see http://www.languagecentre.manchester.ac.uk/study-english/our-courses/presessional-english/). The student receives a transfer report upon successful completion of the course.

The Academic Success Programme in academic English is open to all students who are currently registered on a course at this University. These workshops are free of charge to the student, and are not open to the public. Students are not formally assessed and certificates of attendance are not issued.

**How do I register and attend the Academic Success Programme workshops?**
In Semester 1, visit www.manchester.ac.uk/academicsuccessprogramme to view the timetable - available in early September. Click on a course to register and login with your University username and password.

Note that for the Academic Grammar classes you will need to register by following the links next to each individual class. Once you have done this you will receive a confirmation email containing further information.

Information re: Semester 2 will be made available closer to the end of semester 1.
You must fill out the attendance sheet circulated at each class you attend.

**What happens if the class I want is already full?**
Most classes run in blocks of three or four workshops. You can register for a later block, or even a different block - you can take the blocks in any order.

For grammar classes, we use a different system. In the first six weeks of Semester 1, classes can be extremely busy. If you express interest during this period, you may be added to a waiting list and informed when to start attending. If you do not hear about your place for a few weeks, do not be concerned. It does not matter if you miss classes: these courses are very flexible and a new topic will be covered each week. After the first six weeks, places will become available in most classes.

**Where can I find timetable information?**
www.manchester.ac.uk/academicsuccessprogramme (updated in September).

**How many Academic Success Programme classes do I need to attend?**
We repeat a number of our classes each week to allow students to fit in classes around their academic commitments. You only need to go to one class of each skill (academic writing, academic speaking, academic grammar, academic pronunciation) per week. You do not need to attend all four courses.

**Do I have to pay for the Academic Success Programme?**
No, the workshops are free of charge to all University of Manchester students, staff and visiting fellows.

**Does it matter if I vary class attendance to fit in with my academic work (e.g. go to Monday academic writing one week and to Thursday academic writing during other weeks)?**
We understand that you may have varying academic commitments throughout the teaching session. However, if you are going to change class in Semester 1, please inform us by emailing academicsuccess@manchester.ac.uk quoting your student number.

**If I no longer wish to attend a class, should I inform you?**
In Semester 1: yes. If you are going to stop attending a class, please inform us by emailing academicsuccess@manchester.ac.uk so another student may take your place.

In Semester 2: no. Classes are less busy in this Semester so you do not need to contact us if you want to stop attending.

**Will I earn any credits / get a certificate for attending the Academic Success Programme?**
No, the Academic Success Programme is a support service and is not formally assessed. You will also not receive credits for attending the workshops. Certificates of attendance are not issued, although we keep a log of student attendance for statistical purposes and to inform school administrators/personal tutors of attendance, should they require this information.

**By passing these courses, will I satisfy the condition of my academic offer?**
The Academic Success Programme is for students who have already met their destination School’s minimum language requirements. Attendance on these courses is voluntary: the courses are not formally assessed so they cannot be passed or failed.
I am a visiting researcher / international member of staff – can I take Academic Success Programme workshops?
Yes you can.

Do classes continue throughout reading week?
Yes.

Should I do one of your full-time English language courses to improve my English?
No, for two main reasons: (a) your academic commitments will not allow you enough time to attend a full-time English language course and (b) the University Language Centre’s full-time courses are designed for pre-registration students seeking University preparation and to bring their IELTS / TOEFL score up to their destination School’s minimum entry requirement so they would not be pitched at the level you require.

I would like to participate in a foreign (e.g. German, Spanish, Chinese, etc.) language course – how do I join?
Information on LEAP foreign language courses can be found at http://www.languagecentre.manchester.ac.uk/learn-a-language/